



ABSOLUTE
BATMAN



ALL IN

13+
TEEN

4

SNYDER
WALTA
MARTIN

DRAGOTA



MR. WAYNE.
FOR THE COURT'S
CLARIFICATION, THIS
MORNING, **MR. CHILL**
WAS PREPARED TO GIVE
A STATEMENT, BUT YOU
REQUESTED TO SPEAK
FIRST. YOU SAID IT
WAS URGENT.



IT'S
UNCONVENTIONAL,
BUT GIVEN THE
EXTRAORDINARY
NATURE OF THIS CASE,
I'VE GRANTED YOU
THAT RIGHT.



YOU CAN
GO AHEAD NOW,
SON. SO...



...WHAT IS
IT YOU HAVE
TO **SAY?**

GO ON.
CONVINCE
ME.

TELL ME WHY **YOU THREE** ALONE
SHOULD BE EXEMPT WHEN EVERYONE
ELSE CHIPS IN. AND SOME FOLKS
REALLY HAVE TO SCROUNGE. YOU
DON'T WANT TO KNOW THE THINGS
THEY DO TO CONTRIBUTE.
RIGHT, SIMON?

HEARTBREAKING.

BUT THEY HAVE **PRIDE** IN
THIS PLACE. HISTORIC PARK
ROW. YOU KNOW THESE DAYS
PEOPLE ARE CALLING IT
"CRIME ALLEY"?

BUT UPKEEP TAKES MONEY. SO TELL
US--NO, TELL YOUR NEIGHBORS
OUT THERE--**WHY** DON'T YOU CARE
ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?
MRS. NGUYEN?



I CARE **PLENTY**. MY
MOTHER GREW UP
HERE. AND I HAVE
THREE GIRLS
IN SCHOOL--

TITI--

NO, HENRY.
IT DOESN'T
MATTER. I
WON'T PAY
A GANG.

MRS. NGUYEN. WE'RE MISUNDERSTANDING
EACH OTHER, HERE. **TEN THIEVES** ISN'T
A GANG. WE ONLY WANT TO KEEP THIS
PLACE SAFE. WITHOUT PROPER
FUNDING, THOUGH...

...WE JUST
CAN'T DO
THAT.



SEE?

WE DON'T STAY VIGILANT
AND THINGS GET REAL
UNPREDICTABLE REAL FAST.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT
COULD HAP--







SCREEEE!



WAIT!
WAIT!



SHUNK



GGGGGGG...

BRODY!

WHAT'D
HE DO TO HIM,
MAN?!



HSSSS!



SORRY, BRUCE.
CHOSE A BAT
FOR...?

✕SIGH✕ THE
**YOUNG ENGINEERS
COMPETITION?** IT'S HELD
AT THE **ZOO** THIS YEAR. A LOT
OF THEIR ANIMALS COME FROM
"**DISTRESSED AREAS.**" SO WE
HAVE TO BUILD A BRIDGE FOR
A PLACE LIKE THAT, BUT
THEMED AROUND
AN ANIMAL.

GOTHAM
ZOO



WELL?

IT'S
BIG.

THAT'S THE
IDEA, DAD. BATS ARE
INTIMIDATING. I MADE
THE PIERS SUPER HIGH,
REINFORCED THEM. SEE?
THERE'RE GATES
ALL ALONG.



AH.

"AH,"
WHAT?



I JUST...
WONDER IF
THAT'S REALLY THE
BEST STRATEGY FOR A
PLACE IN NEED?
INTIMIDATION?



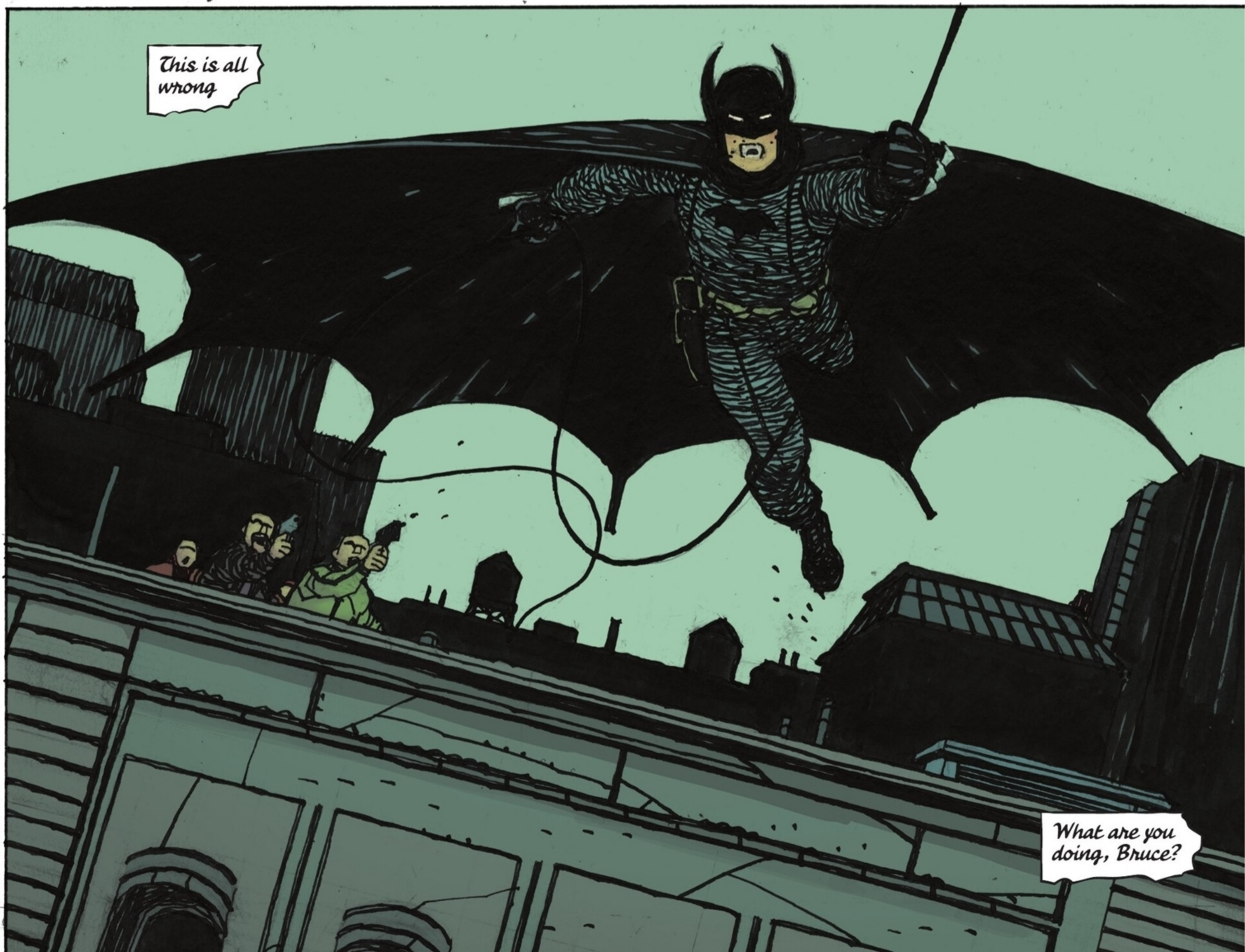
IT'LL MAKE PEOPLE INSIDE
FEEL SAFE. PROTECTED. AND
IT'S **STRONG**. I TESTED IT
UP TO THIRTY POUNDS.



AH--
I MEAN,
GREAT JOB.
I'M PROUD
OF YOU...



"...GOOD
LUCK
WITH IT,
SON."





It's just @#\$\$% theatrics.



The face paint.

The voice distorter.



Silicon fangs loaded with paralytic.



And this?



They're street criminals. The most desperate. Scare off the Ten Thieves, others take their place. No.



It's not enough. Batman needs to do more.



Think bigger.



So build him, Bruce.

The pipeline comes up from Florida, where gun and pharm laws are looser.



They call it the Orange Blossom Special.



Eighty percent of illegal weapons ride it into Gotham. The gangs in the Row get almost all their guns and pills on the OBS.



The material comes up in produce trucks because weight records are less exact. Citrus, mostly. They say the guns smell like oranges when they fire.



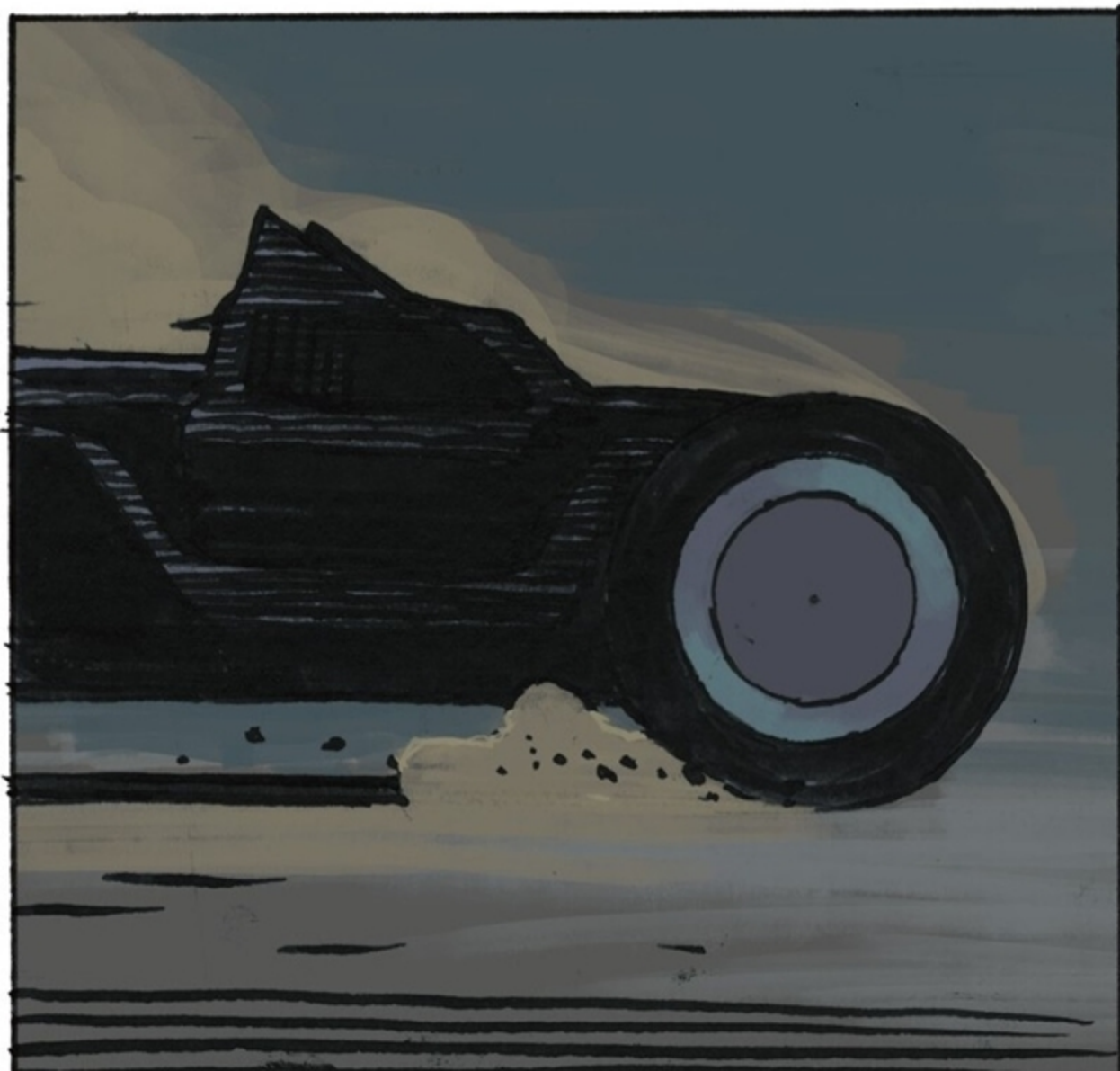
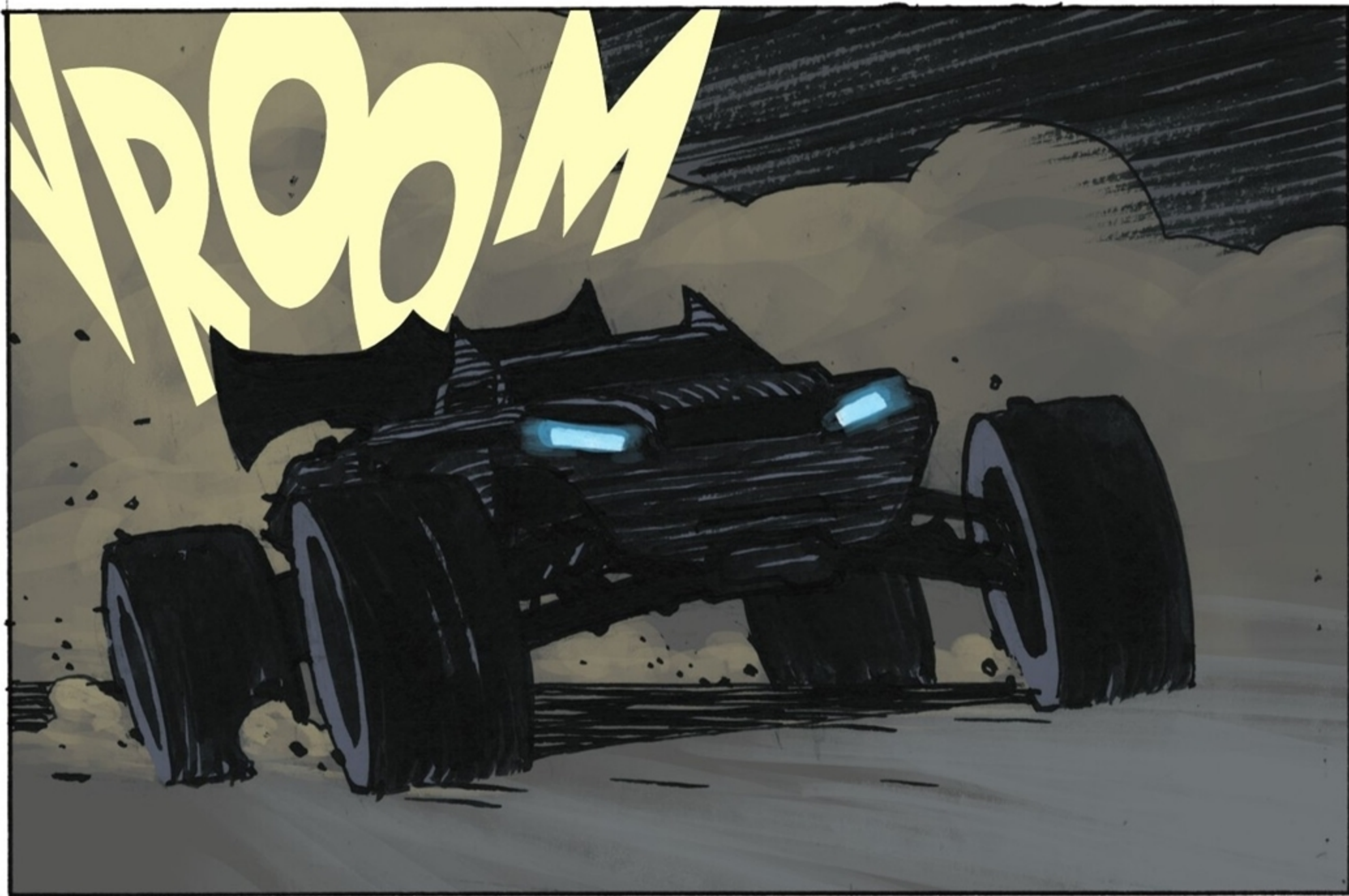
All of it comes to Gotham through checkpoints run by the Maronis and Falcones.



The families shift the hot point each month to avoid raids...

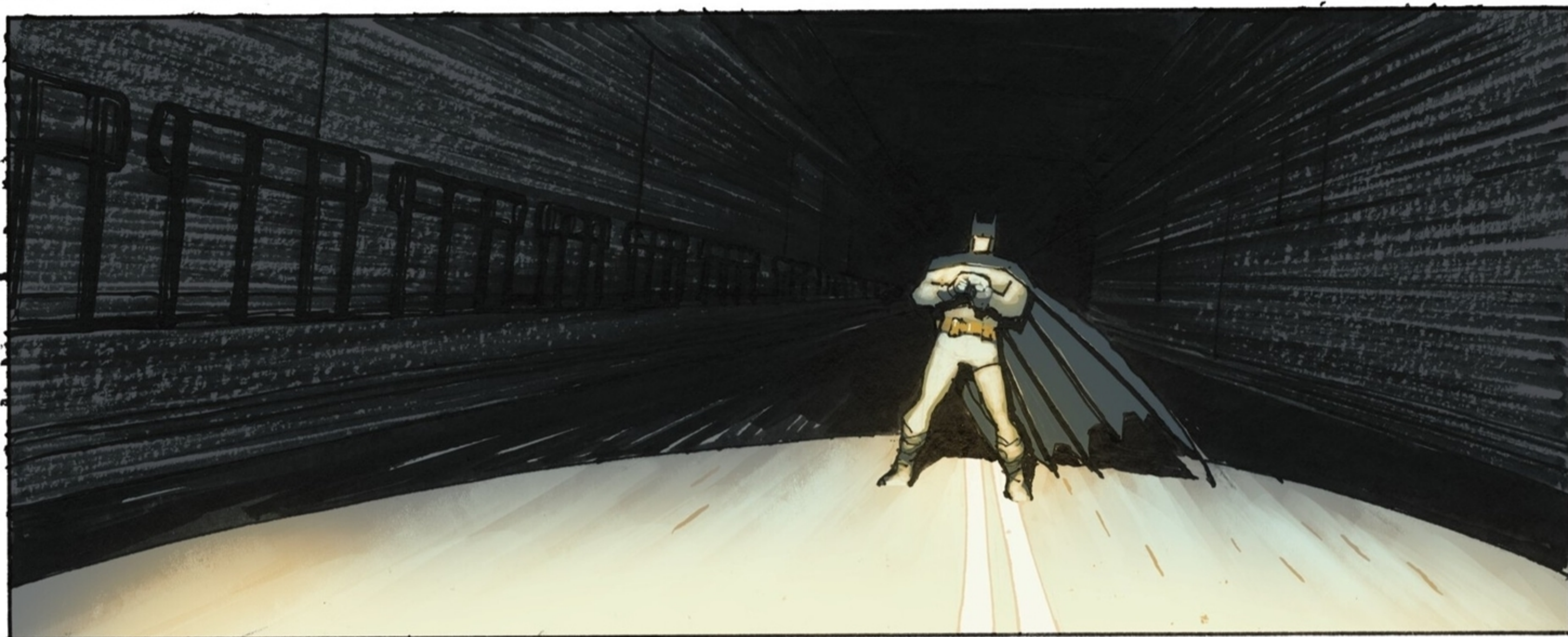
...raids they know are coming anyway. Look at them. They do it all in plain sight. And why not? They're not street criminals. They have deals with a dozen companies in Gotham, and at least three banks.







HH. BEEN
TELLING YOU,
WHOLE WORLD
THESE DAYS
IS GOING...



A bottle jack. An RC Roadster loaded with a 4600KV. Some black paint. All under a grand.



See, Bruce?

Now this... feels better.

SCREEEE



COUGH
WHAT THE HELL
WAS THAT?!





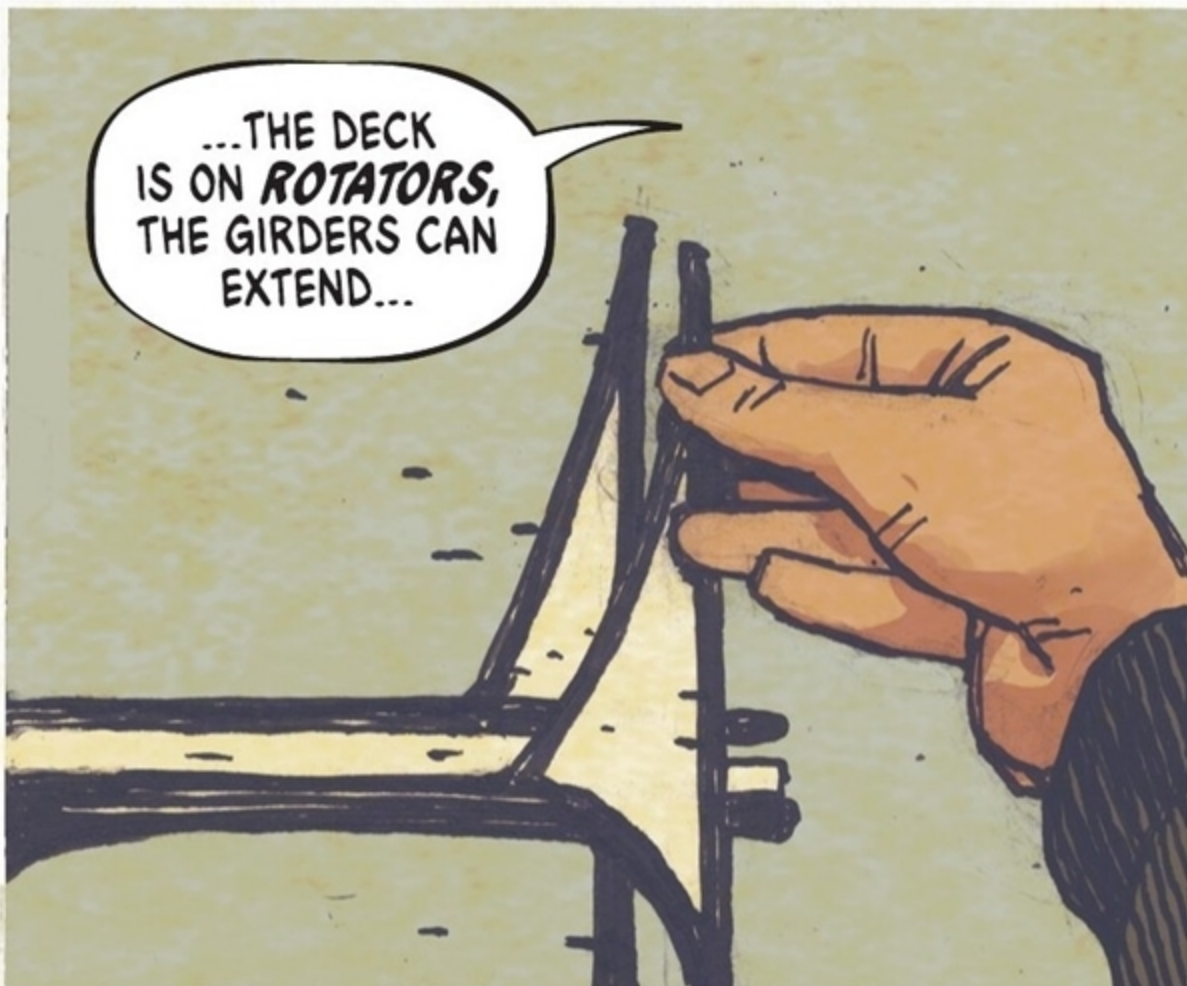
BATS **ADAPT**.
BESIDES RODENTS, THERE
ARE ACTUALLY MORE **BAT SPECIES**
THAN ANY OTHER MAMMAL ON EARTH.
WHY? BECAUSE THEY USE ECHOLOCATION
TO MAP AN AREA, THEY LEARN IT, AND
THEY ADJUST TO **SUCCEED** THERE.

OH
YEAH?

CHECK
IT OUT.



...THIS VERSION, THE **PILINGS**
ARE ADJUSTABLE...



...THE DECK
IS ON **ROTATORS**,
THE GIRDERS CAN
EXTEND...



IT'S REALLY
IMPRESSIVE,
BUD. I LOVE IT.



YOU
THINK IT'S
GOOD ENOUGH
TO WIN?

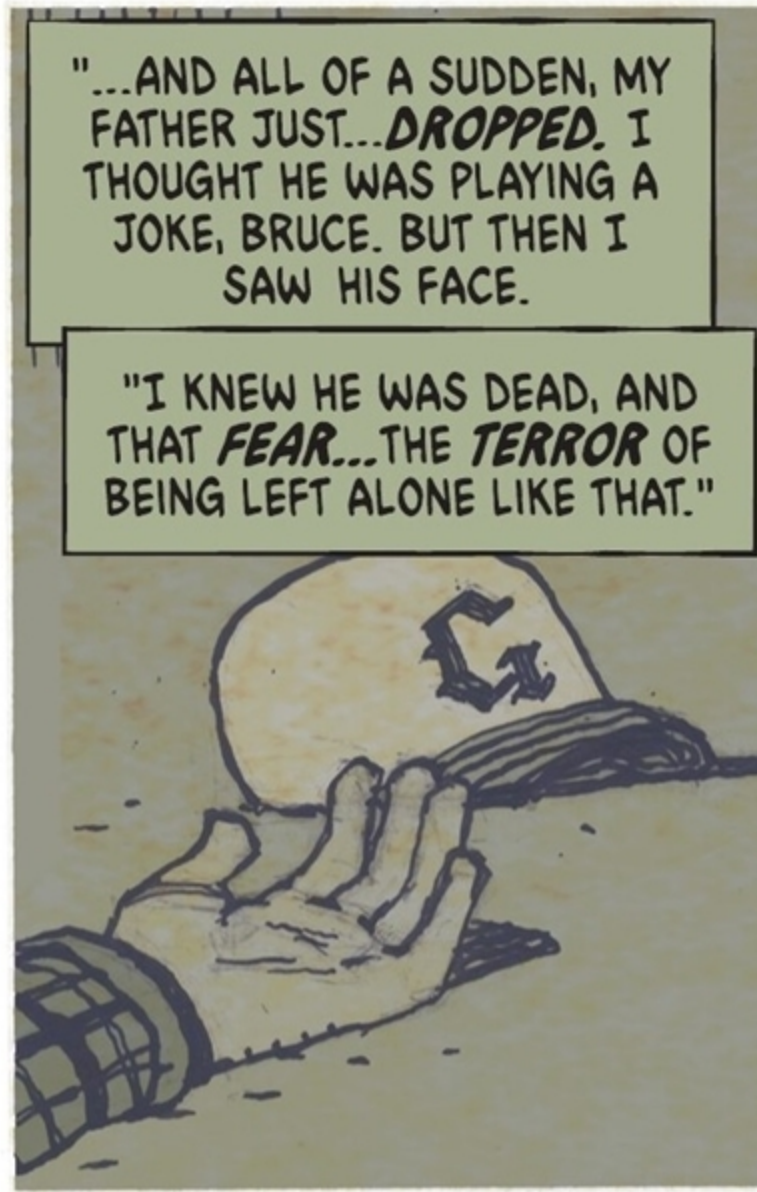
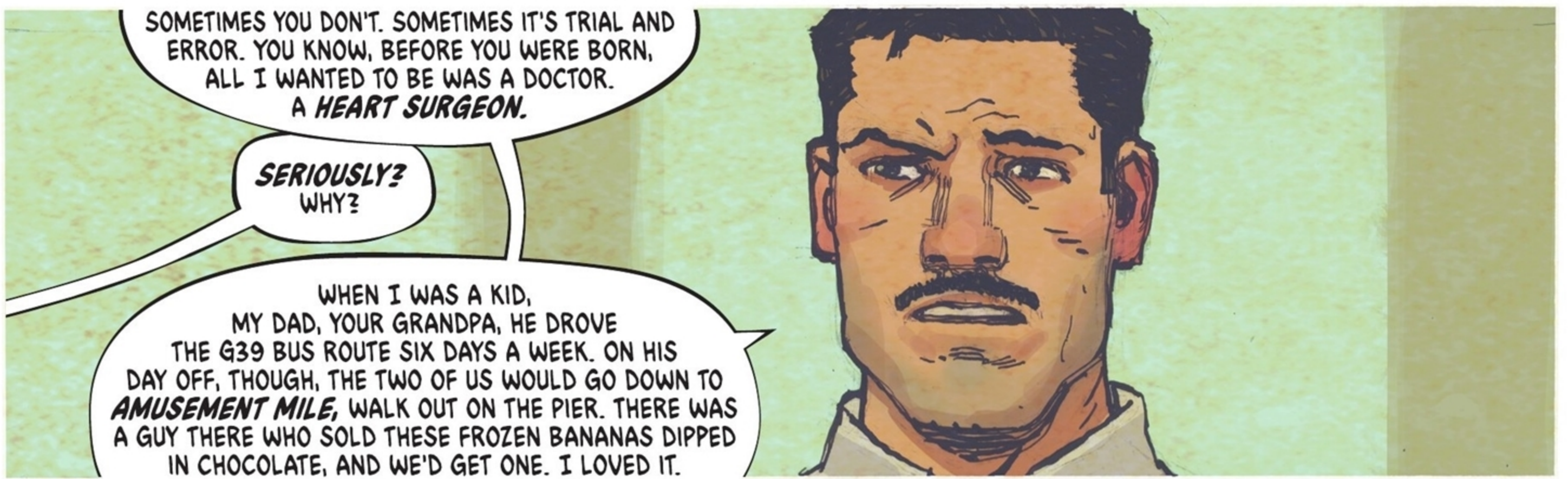
I DON'T
KNOW. BUT ALL
THAT MATTERS IS
THAT YOU **FEEL** IT'S THE
BEST YOU CAN DO. THAT IT
SHOWS WHAT'S SPECIAL
ABOUT A BAT. AT
ITS **CORE**.



I MEAN, I **THINK** SO?
HOW DO YOU KNOW
WHAT ANYTHING
IS "AT ITS CORE,"
THOUGH?



RIGHT?







"I THINK MAYBE I
WAS STILL COMING
AT IT WRONG, DAD."

YOU ARE
NOW LEAVING
**Gotham
City**

"OH YEAH?
HOW SO?"

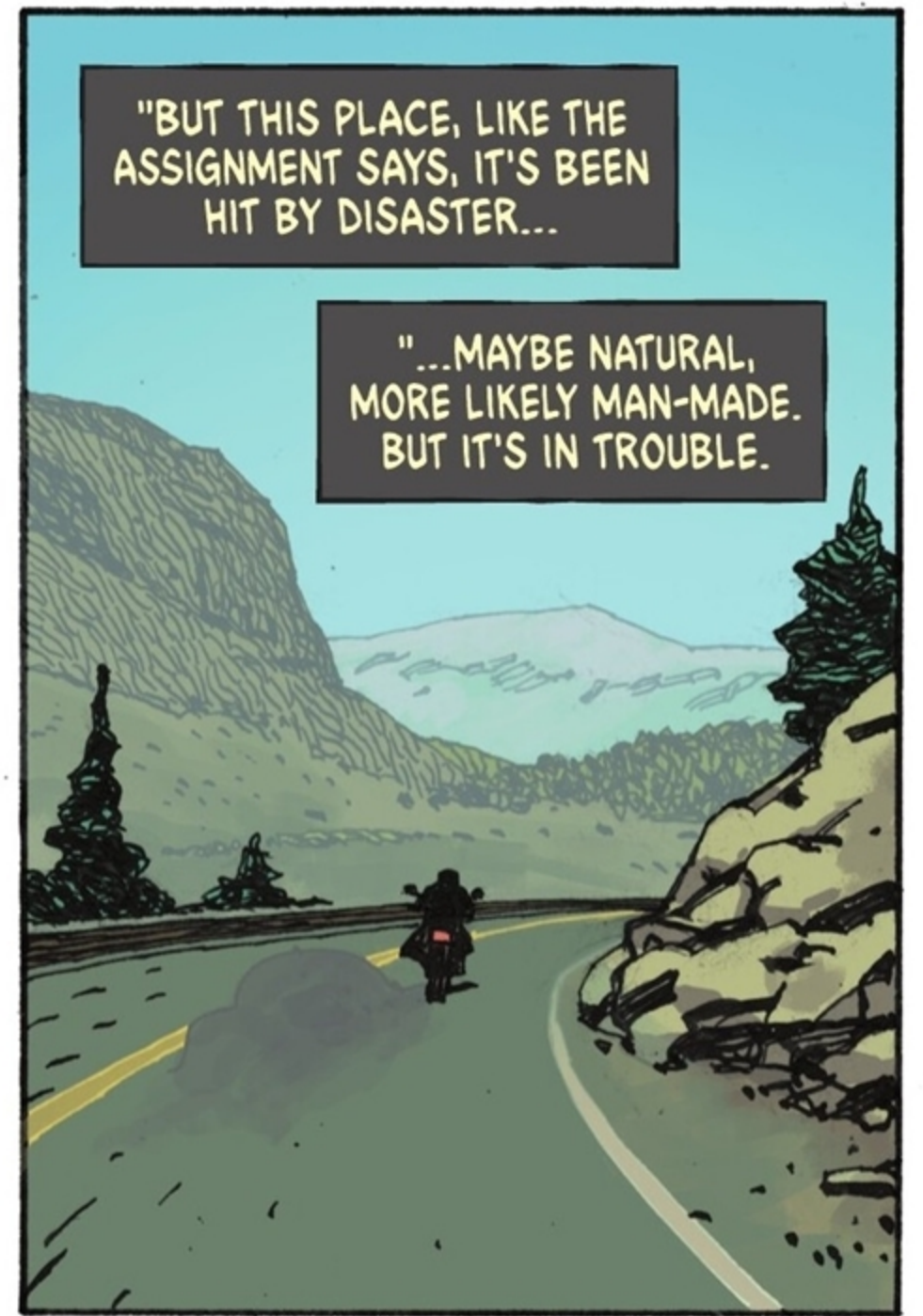
"I WAS THINKING ABOUT THE
BRIDGE, NOT THE PEOPLE.
THAT'S WHERE YOU START."



"GO ON."



"THE PEOPLE, THEY
JUST WANT TO LIVE,
TO FLOURISH."



"BUT THIS PLACE, LIKE THE
ASSIGNMENT SAYS, IT'S BEEN
HIT BY DISASTER..."

"...MAYBE NATURAL,
MORE LIKELY MAN-MADE.
BUT IT'S IN TROUBLE."



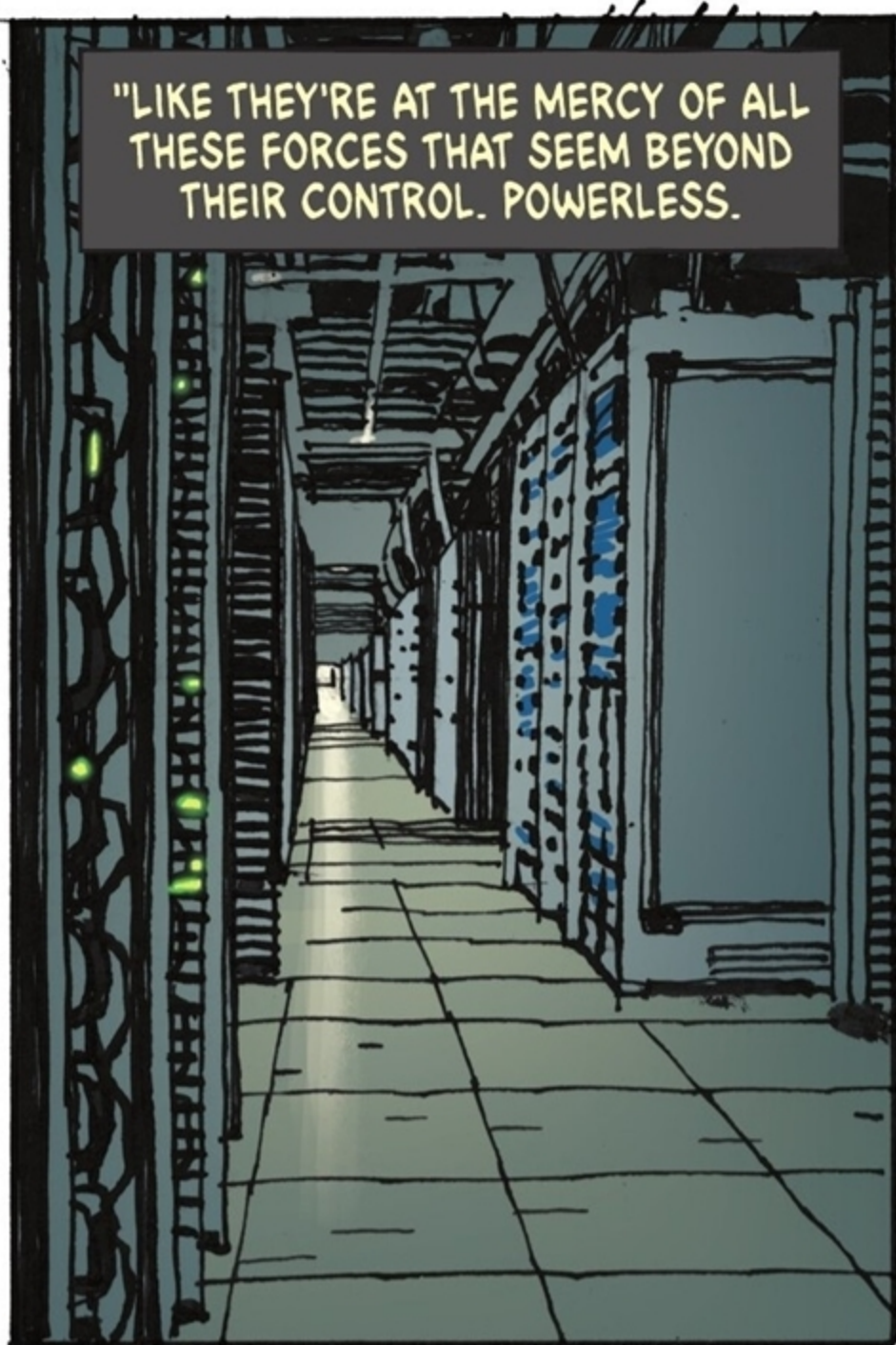
"THE PEOPLE,
BRAVE FACE OR
NOT, THEY'VE GOT
TO BE WORRIED
ABOUT WHAT'S
GOING TO
HAPPEN."



"THEY LOOK AROUND
AND SEE THINGS
FALLING APART."



"THEY'RE
HURTING, THEY'RE
FEELING LIKE NO
ONE SEES THEM."



"LIKE THEY'RE AT THE MERCY OF ALL THESE FORCES THAT SEEM BEYOND THEIR CONTROL. POWERLESS."



"SOME ARE ANGRY AT EVERYONE WHO LET THEM DOWN."



"AND SOME ARE SCARED AND HUNKERING."

"BUT IT'S BAD."

YOU KILLED THAT HAPPINESS, MR. CHILL. FOREVER.

SO, I'M *NOT STAYING* FOR *ANYTHING* YOU HAVE TO SAY. I *DON'T CARE* WHAT MADE YOU DO WHAT YOU DID.



I JUST NEED YOU TO KNOW THAT I *HATE* YOU.



MR. WAYNE--

I #&%& *HATE* YOU, YOU HEAR ME?!



"SO, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, BRUCE?"





I'M KIND
OF NERVOUS
TO SHOW YOU.
IT'S A LITTLE
WEIRD.



CREAK



SHIK



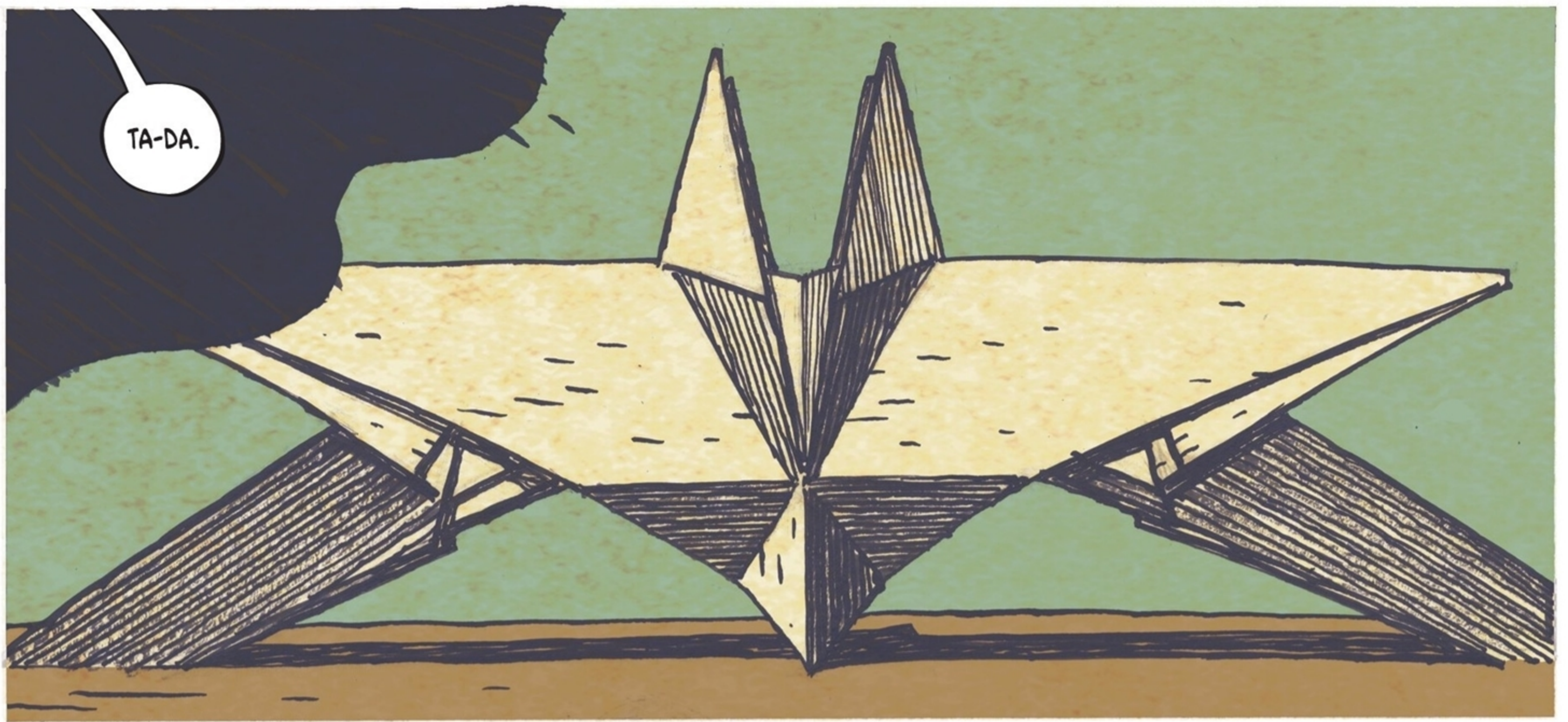
"MAYBE A LOT
WEIRD?"



STOP
STALLING,
KID. LET'S
SEE IT.



HELLO
THERE.



TA-DA.



SO IT'S GOT EVERYTHING THE OTHER DESIGNS HAD, BUT THIS ONE, IT'S GOT ONE EXTRA FEATURE.

IT FLIES.



COME ON.

REALLY. IT'S LIGHTWEIGHT, FOLDABLE, SO IT CAN BE DROPPED FROM A PLANE AND PARACHUTE DOWN. SO THE PEOPLE CAN JUST SET IT UP THEMSELVES. THERE ARE INSTRUCTIONS HERE ON THIS FLAP, SEE?

IT'D BE A TOOL TO USE HOWEVER THEY NEED. THEY DON'T HAVE TO RELY ON THE POWERS THAT BE TO SET IT UP. IT MAKES THE BRIDGE *THEIRS*. THEY CAN USE IT FOR AID, FOR DEFENSE...



"...EVEN
OFFENSE."

The annual Dance for a
Better Gotham charity ball.

Gotham's finest mingle, then
sponsor a competition in which
youth dance groups from
different neighborhoods
compete for prizes.

Me, I'm here for him. Randal Powers,
the billionaire who owns the trucking
conglomerate the Maronis and
Falcones were using.

In the news, he was horrified by
what I exposed. Vowed to support
new regulations on his trucks.

But I hear him lobbying Max Mooney,
head of the G.D.O.T., against tighter
transit laws. Promising money.

It takes everything in my body
not to bust through the skylight
and put him in the dancefloor.

Instead, I keep listening.
I listen to Jackson Ellis, the EPA
chief back-dealing with William
Acme, one of the biggest
polluters in Gotham.

I listen to the politician
who vowed to bring factory
jobs back to the Heights
begging the automation
giant for donations.

I listen to all of you. So many
who're supposed to be protecting
the city, or who could help so easily,
but choose not to. Choose instead to
stay up here, laughing and eating...

Like there's anything left of this city
to eat. No, you ate it all years ago,
and ate well. It's just bones now.

But I hear you.

A few store-bought GSM
ears hidden beneath that
dance floor.

Not to mention the
thermal coil that'll
flash-heat the gold
to 150 degrees in a
moment.

But no one can touch
you up here, right?

Just hot enough so we get
to watch you dance for once.
Even if only for a second.

In this mad little
kingdom of yours at
the top of the world?

Well, I'm coming for you.



IT EVEN HAS SECRET **BUZZSAWS** FOR THOSE HARD-TO-REACH PLACES.



WHAT, TOO MUCH?



EH...

MAYBE **TOO MUCH** IS **GOOD** THESE DAYS.



"THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING! BECAUSE I REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT. I DID."



YOU THERE! LIE DOWN WITH YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR BACK!

"AND WHAT MAKES A BAT A BAT, AT ITS **CORE**, FOR ME..."



"...IS THAT IT **DEFIES** THE IMPOSSIBLE."



"IT'S THE *ONLY* MAMMAL ON EARTH
THAT *FLIES*, DAD. THE ONLY ONE.

"IT'S THIS CRAZY
LITTLE CREATURE
THAT SHOWS US WE
CAN BEAT ANYTHING
HOLDING US DOWN.

"TO THIS BAT,
NOTHING IS
IMPOSSIBLE,
DESPITE WHAT
ANYONE TELLS
YOU. IT SAYS GO
BIGGER, GO
HIGHER..."

"...GO PLACES
YOU DIDN'T THINK
YOU COULD."

"SO, WHAT DO
YOU THINK?"

"I THINK...
IT'S READY."



**ABSOLUTE
BATMAN**
"THE ZOO"
PART FOUR

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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER

WELL? YOU HAD
SOMETHING YOU
WANTED TO
SAY?

